



## Montana Nurses Association

20 Old Montana State Highway 1 Clancy, MT 59634  
(406) 442-6710 Voice 1 (406) 442-1841 Fax

February 19, 2009

RE: SB 442 – Support

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. For the record I am Don Judge and I am here today on behalf of the Montana Nurses' Association in support of Senate Bill 442.

The Montana Nurses Association strongly supports SB442. As nurses our members have taken care of many babies who have been the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome. It breaks your heart to see an infant who has been developing normally all of sudden normality is no more. Our advanced practice nurses have seen many young teens, even as young as 12 years old, having their first child. These parents don't have the coping skills necessary to deal with crying infants and often become frustrated. In their frustration and sense of failure they may grab their child and shake it to get it stop crying. They have no idea of the permanent damage they are doing to their child.

One of our advanced practice nurses who is not able to be present today writes:

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner with 26 years of nursing experience. Currently in my practice I care for 3 children who have been victims of shaken baby syndrome. The oldest child is 4 years old and cannot walk, talk or feed herself. If her dad had been educated about the dangers of shaking his child this tragedy might have been prevented.

LaDonna Maxwell, CEO Missouri River Healthcare  
Family Nurse Practitioner

The Shaken Baby Education Program is a much needed program. It will help educate new parents about the dangers associated with shaking your child. It will decrease healthcare, disability and long term care costs. And most importantly it will save the lives and improve the futures of our tiniest citizens.

Please support Senate Bill 442

Thank you

Don Judge  
Montana Nurses Association  
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